not perceive that regal power, in a few generations, introduces idiotiſm into the noble ſtem, and holds out baits to render thouſands idle and vicious.

Nothing can ſet the regal character in a more contemptible point of view, than the various crimes that have elevated men to the ſupreme dignity.—Vile intrigues, unnatural crimes, and every vice that degrades our nature, have been the ſteps to this diſtinguiſhed eminence; yet millions of men have ſupinely allowed the nerveleſs limbs of the poſterity of ſuch rapacious prowlers to reſt quietly on their enſanguined thrones *.

What but a peſtilential vapour can hover over ſociety when its chief director is only inſtructed in the invention of crimes, or the ſtupid rotine of childiſh ceremonies? Will men never be wiſe?—will they never ceaſe to expect corn from tares, and figs from thiſtles?

It is impoſſible for any man, when the moſt favourable circumſtances concur, to acquire ſufficient knowledge and ſtrength of mind to diſcharge the duties of a king, entruſted with uncontrouled power; how then muſt

* Could there be a greater inſult offered to the rights of man than the beds of juſtice in France, when an infant was made the organ of the deteſtable Dubois!

they

they be violated when his very elevation is an inſuperable bar to the attainment of either wiſdom or virtue; when all the feelings of a man are ſtifled by flattery, and reflection ſhut out by pleaſure! Surely it is madneſs to make the fate of thouſands depend on the caprice of a weak fellow creature, whoſe very ſtation ſinks him *neceſſarily* below the meaneſt of his ſubjects! But one power ſhould not be thrown down to exalt another—for all power intoxicates weak man; and its abuſe proves, that the more equality there is eſtabliſhed among men, the more virtue and happineſs will reign in ſociety. But this, and any ſimilar maxim deduced from ſimple reaſon, raiſes an outcry—the church or the ſtate is in danger, if faith in the wiſdom of antiquity is not implicit; and they who, rouſed by the ſight of human calamity, dare to attack human authority, are reviled as deſpiſers of God, and enemies of man. Theſe are bitter calumnies, yet they reached one of the beſt of men *, whoſe aſhes ſtill preach peace, and whoſe memory demands a reſpectful pauſe, when ſubjects are diſcuſſed that lay ſo near his heart.——

* Dr. Price.

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